

Message Text

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S E C R E T LUSAKA 2581

NODIS

CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR IRWZA US

SUBJ: KAUNDA COMMENTS ON MEETING OF FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS

REF: LUSAKA 2580, STATE 2394/4

1. PRESIDENT KAUNDA CALLED ME IN ABOUT AN HOUR AFTER RETURNING FROM THE AIRPORT AFTER SEEING OFF THE FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS. ACTING FONMIN MILNER, CHONA AND KASANDA WERE ALSO PRESENT.

2. KAUNDA ASKED FIRST THAT I RECORD HIS THANKS TO THE SECRETARY AND TO PRES FORD FOR THEIR EFFORTS TOWARDS SETTLEMENT OF THE PROBLEMS OF THE AREA AND HE SAID HE WOULD BE WRITING THEM TOMORROW. HE ALSO EXPRESSED HIS THANKS FOR THE SECY'S LETTER THIS MORNING. IN BRIEF, HE WANTED TO SAY THAT THE TWO MAIN POINTS OF THE PROPOSAL HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS, THAT IS, THE COMMITMENT TO MAJORITY RULE AND THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT. THE ONLY CHANGE WHICH THEY HAD MADE IN THE PROPOSAL WAS TO CALL FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE TO DETERMINE THE ORGANIC STRUCTURE OF AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE RATHER THAN LEAVING IT TO A RHODESIAN GOVT DOMINATED MECHANISM THEIR IDEA IS A TWO-STAGE CONFERENCE--THE FIRST TO ESTABLISH A PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT, AND THE SECOND TO DRAW UP A CONSTITUTION. BOTH WOULD BE UNDER BRITISH RESPONSIBILITY. THEY WERE LED TO THIS AFTER LISTENING TO THE "REBEL BROADCAST" WHICH CAUSED THEM TO FEAR THE CONSEQUENCES OF LEAVING A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE IN RHODESIAN HANDS. THEY PREFERRED MAKING THE
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BRITISH RESPONSIBLE THROUGH A PROCESS WITH WHICH THEY WERE

ALL FAMILIAR HAVING PASSED THROUGH IT THEMSELVES ON THE PATH TO INDEPENDENCE, AS KAUNDA SAID.
THE SECRETARY AND PRESIDENT FORD HAVE DONE A GOOD JOB. NOW IT IS TIME FOR THE BRITISH GOVT TO MOVE IN AND ACCEPT ITS RESPONSIBILITIES. IT HAS TIME AND AGAIN HAD TO ORGANIZE CONFERENCES OF THIS KIND AND IS USED TO IT.

3. THE PRESIDENT ASKED THAT I PASS ON TO THE SECRETARY THE INFORMATION THAT NKOMO HAS VIRTUALLY BEEN RECOGNIZED AS THE LEADER OF THE NATIONALISTS BY THE FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS. WHETHER THE OTHER NATIONALIST ORGANIZATIONS, AND PARTICULARLY ZANU AND THE THIRD FORCE FREEDOM FIGHTERS UNDER ZIPA, WILL ACCEPT THIS STILL REMAINED TO BE SEEN BUT THE PRESIDENT HOPED SO. THE SECRETARY SHOULD UNDERSTAND, HE SAID, THAT WE WOULD NOT HAVE TO BE DEALING WITH AS MANY GOVTS AND, AS HE MENTIONED TO THE SECRETARY WHEN HE WAS HERE, NKOMO WAS NOBODY'S PUPPET.

4. (THE LOCATION OF THE CONFERENCE WAS APPARENTLY NOT DISCUSSED, THOUGH TWO CITIES WERE MENTIONED AS A POSSIBLE VENUE: LIVINGSTONE AND GENEVA. KAUNDA WOULD PREFER LIVINGSTONE AND WOULD ASSURE THE RHODESIANS THE SAME SECURITY AS HE PROVIDED FOR VORSTER AT VICTORIA FALLS LAST YEAR. HOWEVER, IF THE RHODESIANS OBJECTED TO LIVINGSTONE, HE WAS PREPARED TO AGREE TO GENEVA.

5. FINALLY, KAUNDA SAID, THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT RECOGNITION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE SECRETARY'S EFFORTS IN THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE WAS RAISED. HE HIMSELF ADVISED AGAINST IT IN SPITE OF THE APPRECIATION WHICH HE FEELS FOR THE SECRETARY'S EFFORTS. HE BELIEVES "THE PRAISE SHOULD COME TOWARDS THE END OF THE PROCESS."

6. HE THEN ASKED THAT I TRANSMIT HIS WARM REGARDS TO THE SECRETARY.

7. THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER WAS WAITING TO SEE THE PRESIDENT AS I LEFT. THE MAURITIUS PRIME MINISTER IS NOW IN LUSAKA AND THE ZAMBIANS ARE EXPECTING THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OAU TOMORROW FOR FURTHER CONVERSATIONS ON THE SUBJECT.

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8. COMMENT: KAUNDA WAS TIRED. HE CAME DOWN FROM MULUNGUSHI FOR THESE MEETINGS WHICH LASTED UNTIL 2:30 LAST NIGHT AND BEGAN EARLY THIS MORNING. HIS MOOD WAS MATTER-OF-FACT BUT POSITIVE. HE FEELS THE PROCESS IS NOW ACCEPTED AND UNDERWAY AND IS GRATEFUL FOR THE SECRETARY'S CONTRIBUTION. HE IS CLEARLY CONCERNED TO BE ABLE TO CARRY NOT ONLY THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS BUT,

AS HE PUT IT, ALL OF AFRICA WITH HIM IN THE PROCESS
AHEAD. HE WAS ALSO CONCERNED THAT THE SECRETARY WAS
OPPOSED TO THE IDEA OF A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE.
I SAID THAT I BELIEVED OUR PRIMARY CONCERN WAS TO KEEP
THE MOMENTUM GOING WITH THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT
OF AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT AND TO AVOID ALLOWING THE PROCESS
TO BOG DOWN IN DISCUSSIONS OF AN EVENTUAL CONSTITUTION
BEFORE THAT. I BELIEVE KAUNDA IS VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE
OBSTACLES STILL AHEAD OF HIM BOTH FROM MILITANT
GROUPS AMONG THE NATIONALISTS AND ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA
AND FROM THE RHODESIANS WHOM HE STILL FINDS IT DIFFICULT
TRUST, BUT HE IS FULLY COMMITTED TO THE PROCESS HOWEVER.

9. DEPT PLEASE PASS PORT LOUIS FOR SCHAUFLELE.
LOW

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